

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Replace paragraph [0001] as follows:

[0001] This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application 10/081,499, entitled "Buffered Configurable Nonvolatile Programmable Digital Potentiometer," which was filed on February 20, 2002, issued as U.S. Patent 6,771,053 on August 3, 2004, and is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

Replace paragraph [0026] as follows:

[0026] Each first switching device 120 is controlled by a signal 36 from a selecting block 138, which is an enhanced development of the prior-art selecting block 38 of FIG. 1. The selecting block 138 comprises a Gray-code counter 124 connected to a Gray-code decoder 122, which is followed by a make-before-break circuitry 123. The Gray-code counter 124 enables a single transition at a time in order to avoid glitches. The Gray-code decoder ~~123-122~~ is connected after the Gray-code counter ~~122-124~~ to identify the identity of the turned-on one of the first switching devices 120 in accordance with the status of the Gray-code counter ~~122-124~~. The make-before-break circuitry 123 connected between the Gray-code decoder 122 and the plurality 144 of first switching devices 120 establishes a short overlap conduction time for any adjacent pair of the first switching devices 120, one being turned-off while the other is turned-on. This way the internal wiper terminal 18 is always connected to at least one of the tap points.